

MEYERS SB 990

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is April Meyers and I am writing to address the legislation currently slated as SB 990 to express my desire that you all vote NO on this.

I ask this for several reasons. The first is that I am a user of the electronic cigarette and it is extremely important that you understand the difference between an electronic cigarette and the real thing because use of this product has changed my life for the better. It took me three months to transition from real cigarettes to electronic ones. Since then my health has improved significantly. I was a smoker for over 20 years and had tried every product on the market to help me quit and failed miserably with each of them. Through the use of an electronic cigarette I was able to wean off of the real ones in a natural and painless manner. I suffered no withdrawal either physical or mental. My primary care physician recently listed me as a non-smoker because there is no category for the electronic cigarette. She has been my doctor for seven years and in my last appointment remarked on my improved lung capacity. She also stated that I no longer wheeze. The truth is that after only three weeks of using an electronic cigarette my smokers cough went away entirely and I was still using real cigarettes. Once I put those down completely I absolutely noticed an increase in my lung capacity. Beyond this my entire life has improved. I no longer smell like a cigarette. I no longer have to stand outside in the cold as a slave to my addiction. I have also followed a step by step process to wean off of the nicotine and now enjoy many flavors of E-Liquids at low or 0mg strength.

The process of smoking that has been ingrained into my personality after more than twenty years of use is completely satisfied with an electronic cigarette ensuring that I don't falter back to my previous habit and you know what? I don't miss them one bit. I never thought a product would exist that could do that for me and absolutely agree with what another of my doctors, a Yale Graduate ENT exclaimed when I told him how I quit, "this is the best technology to hit the market since the computer". He also confessed his excitement to see research on lung improvement because he had seen evidence that the lungs heal the same way they do when a smoker quits without any aids, so in essence, he was claiming that the lungs sustain no damage from the use of an electronic cigarette because there is none of the toxins found in the real product.

Aside from my personal experience and the success of my husband using the same method, I also opened up an electronic cigarette, accessories and E-Liquid store in Branford, CT with both an online and retail presence called Northeast Vapor Supplies. We are excited about our business because we have watched over 100 customers throw out their real cigarettes and transition to an electronic vapor product in only 8 short months of business and can only imagine how many we will help in the future. These customers not only give up their real, or analog cigarettes as they are often referred to, but wean off of the nicotine. We have many who now use the electronic cigarette at a zero nicotine level. Why should these customers be banned from using the products? They aren't even using nicotine!

Furthermore there have been several studies that show conclusive evidence that the vapor exhaled from electronic cigarettes does not affect the environment in the same manner as smoke from a real cigarette. Here is an article on that:

Online PR News – 04-October-2012 –An indoor air quality study conducted by CHANGE, LLC at the Center for Air Resources Engineering and Science at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY was published this month in the peer reviewed journal Inhalation Toxicology. The study compared harmful byproducts commonly found in cigarette smoke versus the levels of those same compounds in several popular brands of vaporized e-cigarette liquid.

Because e-cigarettes vaporize liquid rather than burning tobacco, most of the harmful compounds found in smoke were not present in e-cigarette vapor. Those few compounds that were found were at such minuscule levels that toxicology analysis detected no risk (cancer or non-cancer risk) to public health from environmental e-cigarette vapor.

“This study demonstrates that the risks of secondhand vapor from electronic cigarette use are very small in comparison to those associated with secondhand tobacco smoke. While secondhand smoke must be eliminated in workplaces and public places, the current data provide no justification for eliminating electronic cigarette use in these places.”- Dr. Michael Siegel of Boston University School of Public Health

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There has been a growing controversy over including e-cigarettes in smoking bans, which were originally passed due to the health risks thought to be caused by environmental tobacco smoke.

“For more than 25 years Smokefree Pennsylvania has been advocating indoor smoking bans. Based on the results of this study I see no reason for e-cigarettes to be included in smoking bans.” - Bill Godshall of Smokefree Pennsylvania.

“Most vapers believe e-cigarette vapor is not harmful to those around them, but it is reassuring to finally have scientific evidence confirming those beliefs.”- Spike Babaian, President of National Vapers Club

This is the first study to cover such a wide range of toxins, however previous studies, which have evaluated a smaller number of toxins, have shown similar results.

“The results of this study confirm the findings of my last 4 years of research. E-cigarettes pose no discernible risk to public health.” - Dr. Murray Laugesen - Public Health Medicine Specialist, Health New Zealand

National Vapers Club, a consumer-based e-cigarette organization, sponsored the study.

E-cigarette vapor is practically odorless, and generally any detectable odor is not unpleasant and smells nothing like smoke. We recently vended at a Rhode Island Hotel for a convention inside our room. The hotel was aware of this as was the convention management and supported us. The reaction of non-smokers was this, “oh my, it smells wonderful in here”. There was no smoke coming from our room but there was a pleasant aroma of the many varieties of E-Liquids our customers were sampling. No one had any adverse reactions. No one took offense. We received nothing but positive feedback and helped over fifty people transition off of analog

cigarettes and onto electronic cigarettes in a single weekend event. That is fifty new non-smokers and fifty new people no longer polluting the air with real smoke.

With the new designs of electronic cigarettes it is quite easy to distinguish them from the real thing. The most noticeable difference, beyond their shapes and sizes is the lack of smoke odor. Smoke smells awful and makes those around them suffer because it gets into their clothing and hair. It can also cause allergic reactions and of course we are all familiar with the many dangers of second hand smoke. The vapor produced from an electronic cigarette poses none of these risks. In fact, I have encountered many people who have told me they have a severe allergy to smoke but no reaction at all to the vapor produced from an electronic device. Non-smokers living with electronic cigarettes users take no offense to the vapor.

We allow our customers to vape in our store and everyone who walks into our store's first reaction is always to tell us how wonderful it smells. This reaction includes a multitude of non-smokers. I have personally used my electronic cigarette in Wal-mart and Stop and Shop stores, in restaurants, in the emergency room at Yale and at gas stations in public and no one ever complained. Again, if there is any reaction it is to tell me how wonderful the smell is, if they can smell it all. Usually they can't because the smell dissipates quickly. What a customer smells in my stores is the actual E-Liquids we stock, not lingering vapor because as I just stated, the odor dissipates quickly.

I have been informed that there are several companies in our state that allow employees to vape at their desks or in designated areas. Productivity in these companies has increased significantly and no doubt has affected their bottom line.

Vapor does not behave in the same manner as smoke. There is no "side stream" vapor like the side stream smoke coming from the lit end of a cigarette. There is also no ash or litter. With so little evidence of use, enforcing indoor use bans on electronic cigarettes would be nearly impossible.

The ability to use electronic cigarettes in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch. If someone catches me using my electronic cigarette, they are intrigued. I then explain how my use of it has changed my life and they become inspired to try it themselves.

Surveys of thousands of users indicate that the majority of those who switch completely replace tobacco cigarettes with the electronic cigarettes, reducing their health risks by 98-99%. This is the case with me and the customers I described above. By switching to a smokeless product, my health risks have been reduced so much, that as I told you, my primary care physician listed me as a non-smoker on my chart. It was an incredible feeling to have the Tobacco Dependency Disorder removed from my chart.

If you need further evidence of the cast differences between an electronic cigarette and the real thing, please visit www.CASAA.org for information. I am a Regional Director for this organization and a proud non-smoker.

Please don't lump electronic cigarettes in with tobacco. They are not the same thing. It is imperative that you understand the difference and vote NO on SB 990.

Sincerely,
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